"In the normal manner of playing, the finger is lifted a little earlier from the keys than is required by the duration of the note, whereas, for notes specially marked by slurs the finger should be allowed to stay on the key until the duration of the written note is completely over, so that not the slightest separation results."[4]

This approach was at no time a purely German one. The closest analysis of an individual's keyboard technique was made around the same time that Türk was writing, by the Parisian Engramelle, and related to the playing of his friend, the famous organist and harpsichordist Balbastre. Engramelle wished to dissect the niceties of touch, so as to imitate their effect in the construction of the barrels of mechanical organs. He wrote:

"...To convince yourself of the necessity for these silences at the end of every [*sic.*] note, play any piece you like on organ, harpsichord, spinet, or any other keyboard instrument. As you play, attend more to the actual performance than to the way the music has been written down. You will observe that a finger which has just played a note is often raised a long time before the next note is struck. This interval of time is bound to be a silence...these intervals of varying length are gaps of articulation in the music. No note is without one, any more than words are spoken without any consonants: without consonants every syllable would just sound like an inarticulate vowel..."[5]

This basic convention underlay notation of much music from the Renaissance (for which evidence will be provided later) until the Classical period, but Mozart and Haydn began to adopt notational means to specify note-length which earlier composers rarely did. The **Baroque** musician's response to the hypothetical example (2) would have been less restricted than that of later musicians. And we can, in fact, replace the hypothetical with the actual: here is the first line of a Scarlatti sonata:

Ex. 4: Scarlatti: Sonata K457, bars 1–5

And here, the first line of a mature sonata by Haydn: